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Brooks, R. C. *Corruption in American Politics and Life.* Pp. xv, 309. Price, \$1.25. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1910.

We so often think of corruption as a feature of "practical politics" that we forget that it is a much broader phenomenon. Political corruption is only a symptom of a condition far too prevalent in all branches of our national life. The author aims to analyze the nature of these conditions and to show the far-reaching character of the task which thorough-going reformers must set themselves.

The first two chapters of the work, *Apologies for Political Corruption* and *The Nature of Political Corruption* have already become known to those interested in political science through magazine publication. After the definition of the field of the work in these two preliminary studies there follows an analysis of the reasons why corruption is so persistent a by-product of political and social life. A brief review of the history of corruption from the Greeks to Pepsy, Tweed and our present-day offenders shows that, though the evil is still with us, its forms have become less and less dangerous. In spite of the fact that the methods of the modern corruptionist often show skill little short of genius, Mr. Brooks believes that the evil is gradually being driven into fields less profitable to exploit. Not even Chris. Magee, former boss of Pittsburgh, could now declare that a "ring could be made as safe as a bank," and it cannot be said that "the people will never kick on a ten per cent rake-off." National, state and municipal governments represent decreasing grades of success in the fight for clean government, but in every branch conditions are, on the average, far better than a generation ago.

A chapter on corruption in the professions brings out strong contrasts, especially in the opinions as to the effect of money influence on the press and on educational institutions through acceptance of "tainted money." Mr. Brooks concludes that no great danger threatens from this quarter since the improper use of money in the professions must destroy the people's confidence in those influenced and hence bring the defeat of its own ends. The most insidious forms of corruptions, and those which do most to debauch public opinion are those which appear in the world of business. Such abuses tend to leave the economic field and become a menace to the state itself. Government regulation, though its mistakes be frequent, must be our reliance here to an ever greater extent, and the government servants must be kept from forsaking the service for that of the great business organizations by adequate salaries and a general recognition of their service to the public.

Finally, how shall political corruption itself be kept down? Here, too, the machinery of the state must be called upon to regulate who may make contribution for political purposes, how much may be contributed and how the money may be spent. Other forms of corrupt reward, such as those connected with the patronage must be uprooted by an efficient civil service system supplemented by civil pensions.

A detailed exposition of the subject treated can not be expected in a book of this size. In fact that is the greatest criticism of the discussion—

that there is not more of it, but no one will read its pages without getting a clearer idea of what clean government means.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Bruce, P. A. *Institutional History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century.*

Two vols. Pp. xix, 1404. Price, \$6.00 New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

It is impossible in a review, a few hundred words in length, to criticize in detail a work such as Dr. Bruce has written upon the early institutional history of Virginia. Like his previous volumes upon the economic and the social aspects of Virginia in the seventeenth century, this account of the "inquiry into the religious, moral, educational, legal, military and political condition of the people" of the colony is not only "based upon original and contemporary records," but is presented with such wealth of detail and illustration as to command the admiration of every special student of early colonial history. All three of Dr. Bruce's works appeal rather to the historian than to the lay reader of history.

Volume one of the *Institutional History* contains three parts, dealing severally with religion and morals, education, and legal administration. The evidence presented by Dr. Bruce shows more zealous observance of religion and higher public standards of morality than have generally been attributed to the Virginians of the seventeenth century; but the evidence presented seems to justify the author's favorable judgment. Likewise, the attention given to education is shown to have been general and persistent; and the planting class, as shown by "the surviving letters of the foremost Virginians of the seventeenth century," contained many men of culture. The development of the administration of justice in the county and general courts is admirably presented, a third of the first volume being devoted to that subject.

The second volume is concerned with the military system and political condition of the colony, one-third of the space being given to the former subject and two-thirds to the latter. The forty-two chapters, dealing with the political affairs of Virginia, the executive and legislative machinery of government, and the methods of taxation, make a most notable contribution to the subject. In this part of the work, the author is at his best. Among the minor features of volume two, mention may well be made of the two chapters upon pirates. During the two decades of the seventeenth century, piratical raids were of frequent occurrence, and were a constant menace to the plantations along the coast.

Doctor Bruce is to be congratulated upon having brought to a successful end the task he set himself some twenty years ago of presenting "a complete picture of all the conditions prevailing in Virginia previous to 1700." The accomplishment of his purpose has required a vast amount of labor, all of which has been performed with most conscientious accuracy and fairness.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.